

THE THREE POSERS

DR. MAHADEV BOSE, HALISAHAR

It is well that the long overdue question of introducing Hahnemann's 50 Millesimal potency—*medicamentum aglobule*, as he termed it, is brought to the fore in the form of an editorial in the March issue of the Hahnemannian Gleanings, 1957.

There-in Dr. S. M. Bhattacharjee, M.A., P.R.S.M. has set three posers for the homœopaths to answer.

Briefly they are as under :—

The desirability of discarding higher and highest potencies (meaning most probably machine-made ones i.e., Fluxion, Ball etc., the productions from Shantee potentiser which Dr. Nash claimed to be *more accurate*,¹ as well as the hand-made potencies of Korsakoff—Joslin—Jenichen not being available at least in the Indian market) in preference to the 50 Millesimal Potency for the correct application or use of which very little is known, or vice-versa, and in case the introduction of the 50 Millesimal Potency finds favour, the signs and symbols to be used to differentiate them from the others in the transitional period.

The question of using symbols or signs to denote the 50 Millesimal Potency being secondary comes last but being the least puzzling I answer first.

In my view, we can do no better than follow the method of Hahnemann himself. The figures $\frac{0}{1}$, $\frac{0}{2}$, $\frac{0}{3}$, $\frac{0}{30}$, $\frac{0}{200}$ and so on or 0/1, 0/2, 0/3, 0/30, 0/200, in the manuscript which are the same thing, are as easily expressed as understood. In adopting this method we would be respecting Hahnemann's wishes too. As for the marks for the first three centesimal triturations those that are in vogue need no change. To denote the liquid potency, next to the three triturations and prior to the potency of the *first degree* of dynamisation the 0·8 " $\frac{0}{\phi}$ may be as good as any other.

1. Dr. J. T. Kent regarded the Skinner potentizer the best—Ed.

I am conscious of the fact that, by answering the last question as I do, I commit myself to being in favour of the introduction of the 50 Millesimal Potency prepared in accordance with Hahnemann's novel method. In fact I am definitely in favour of its introduction but that does not necessarily signify that I am for discarding the machine-made high potencies which are extensively used by practitioners of classical homœopathy all the world over with tolerably good results, and for the selection and use of which effective rules have been formulated. As long as they are available, they will be used inspite of the aggravation after every dose unlike after the use of potencies prepared as per novel method where-in a slight aggravation may come only at the end of cure (compare § 161 of Organon, 5th and 6th Edn.). Conservatism dies hard.

It is not the mere fascination of novelty of the "*medicamentum aglobule*" that induces me to speak in its favour. I had such attraction two decades ago. My practical experiments—although made on a very small scale—led me to believe that Hahnemann's this departure is not only novel but tremendous and it is this experience that prompts me to support whole heartedly the question of its introduction. My repeated experience with the 30th potency of Sulphur, prepared as per new method, is that it takes up the work where the 1000th Fluxion potency left and leads the patients towards cure. Lest I be mistaken in my conception of facts, I exchanged notes with Dr. Gangadhar Dirghangi (now deceased), who was to my knowledge and belief the pioneer in the field, at least in Bengal, and I was convinced that I was correct.

Those that can read the signs on the wall can discern that the date is not far off when the flow of supply of Homœopathic medicines of potencies high and low will cease from outside India. Already potencies higher than C.M. are not available. It is said that they are not manufactured because doing so is no longer profitable. The seed of destruction of the machine lies within the machine itself.

Further, the cold war now at its height might, at any moment, transform itself into a war with nuclear weapons and the supply of high potencies as well as low might be suddenly

cut off from either end. It will therefore be evident that it is more a question of non-availability than of discarding high potencies that we have to consider and that very seriously.

As matters stand at present, the ordinary homœopaths using low potencies are not likely to be affected, as their interests are safe in the hands of the prominent Homœo-pharmacists of India who are already manufacturing dependable quality of polychrests in the lower potencies from mother-tinctures manufactured by themselves. It is those that practise classical homœopathy,—those that keep up the prestige of Homœopathy in the eyes of the public by curing diseases otherwise impossible,—it is these practitioners that will be hard hit, should the supply of their requisite high potencies fail.

In the event of such a failure and the failure of securing the automatic machines to manufacture high potencies, they will have to be potentized by hand to the required degrees. If this is to be done in accordance with provisions of § 270 of the 5th Edn. of Organon, it would mean enormous expenditure ;* and even if, at the sacrifice of quality, the Korsakoff—Joslin—Jenichen method—the one vial method—is followed, still the cost of production will be heavy and the cost of medicine will in consequence be bound to be prohibitive.

Dr. Bhattacharjee has pointed out that Hahnemann had seen Korsakoff's potency upto 1500th, and whatever he might have said at the spur of the moment, he must have pondered over it, tested it long before he finished the revision of his Organon for the 6th Edition. We have the information from Madame Hahnemann that her husband had used 1000th

* Dr. Richard Hughes has given us an estimate which shows that to potentize a drug to C.M., more than 2,000 gallons of spirit of wine a million clean bottles (and corks—M.B.) and as not more than four potencies could be made in a minute, incessant labour at the rate of 12 hours a day, six days a week, would yet occupy more than a year in the process. The same authority states that—Dr. Dudgeon has shown that working five hours a day and allowing a second for each shake it would take him (Jenichen) five weeks to raise..... a single drug to this height i.e., 60,000 potency. Pharmacodynamics, pages 103 and 104.

potency (vide Organon, B. K. Sarkar, p. 340). Whether that potency was raised in accordance with the provisions of the 5th Edition Organon, or the Korsakoff method or as laid down in the 6th Edition of Organon, is of course not known.

The 6th Edition of Organon is the final outcome and we can therefore safely presume that his experiences with high potencies are embodied in it. Hahnemann said that it was the most perfect of all and he has actually made such provisions therein to enable us to save ourselves from the predicament we are in. Only those that did not go deeply into the changes in all their details were disappointed to find that he "stuck to his pet 30th potency" and I thank Dr. Bhattacharjee sincerely for the pains he took to place the matter in its proper perspective before the homœopaths.

Potentizing medicines in accordance with the new method is simple enough, but the data,—the reports of clinical cases treated by Hahnemann with these novel potencies that would have immensely helped us in selecting the right potency in place of those now in vogue, are not before us and there is no certainty that they will ever be.

To enable us, therefore, 'to shift the gear' with a view to quickly adapt ourselves to the use of these novel potencies rightly, we must either go on experimenting to find out the clue, which is not likely so long as the machine made potencies are available, unless we are impressed with the impending danger, (besides how many of us are gifted with that power of keen observation and insight that will enable us to chalk out a really workable line ?) or find out a method to build up a conversion Table? Thanks are due to Dr. Bhattacharjee who with commendable forethought has taken great pains to work out one to enable us to meet this exigency, but in the absence of particulars as to the principles on which he bases his calculations it is not possible to dive deep into the formidable array of mathematical figures in order to ascertain whether the same will really be of practical use. ² From the maze of

2. Yes, rightly said. The Calculations are evidently based on the Theory of Indices, and a careful study of them convinces every one.—Ed.

figures it is not difficult, however, to discern that the calculations are made firstly to find out the proportion of drug in a given quantity of each in the series of degrees of the 50 Millesimal Potencies and to determine according to the equivalent or nearest potencies in vogue *pari passu* with it, and secondly on the comparative figures thus arrived at, a conversion table is worked out by adding the number of succussions given to each potency in succession.

Even assuming that the basis of calculation is correct one is constrained to remark that the calculation are made too mechanically³ to be perfect. In the first part the same process of calculation is followed for all potencies although there is some material difference in the manufacture of potencies below and above 200th.⁴ The lower potencies are handmade and made in accordance with the directions (with slight modifications) of the 5th Edition of Organon, but when we come to the 1000th⁵ and higher which are mostly Fluxion potencies i.e., machine made, one must bear in mind that they are made merely in partial imitation of Korsakoff-Jenichen method based

3. The calculations are mathematically *mostly* accurate. If mathematics is mechanical, they may be dubbed so.—Ed.

4. There is difference in scale upto the 3rd cent. Potency only, and no where beyond that, i.e., from 4C to handmade 1000C there is no difference of scale. Since, 50 Millesimal potencies from the Mother Solution upwards are all prepared on the same scale (considering, of course, the Mother Solution as well as the 1st Millem. to comprise one degree in the potency scale), the calculations on that scale can not but be uniform and on the same process. The drug-strengths of the first three dry triturations, uniformly made on the centesimal scale, before we reach the original Mother Solution, from which all 50 Millem. liquid potencies are made, have been duly calculated. Of course, the determination of the equivalents of the 50 Millem. potencies in the centesimal could not ensure cent per cent accuracy, in view of the fact that in the preparation of some medicines upto the 3rd in the centesimal scale, the advocated ratio of 1 : 100 can not be maintained.—Ed.

5. Tafel's handmade high potencies upto 1000C are still available.—Ed.

upon one vial theory and the succussion process is absolutely replaced by the introduction of the inert medium with some force, at different levels of liquid for the matter of that—and therefore cannot be exactly of the same potency which they purport to be, compared with the standard of handmade potencies. ⁶ They are no doubt 'high' potencies but their standard is yet unascertained. Further, having been potentized in one vial at different levels of the liquid medium they do not undergo the same amount of attenuation ⁷ as it would if succussed vigorously and this brings up the question of conglomeration of potencies or the oligodynamic power on which I do not desire to dilate here. ⁸ Interested readers may kindly peruse McGavack's *Homœopathic Principles in Therapeutics* p. 180.

6. Whether they are exactly the same potency or not has not yet been instrumentally determined. No exact technique has as yet been developed to measure the energy of the potencies. We can determine them mathematically only. But we know the verdict of Dr. Kent, who in his letter dated, Chicago, Ill, July 30, 1903, addressed to Dr. Hayes, writes: "I am the one who urged the firm of Boericke & Tafel to put in a Skinner potentizer and make the potencies..... The fact remains. It is the only cent. Potentizer in the world that makes accurate potencies. I have a full set of Skinner's potencies—they work well. Go to New York and see the thing work and you will see for yourself." —Ed.

7. Attenuation refers to dilution, succussion to potentization. Probably, no one can agree with Dr. Bose that fluxion potencies are less attenuated because of their being potentized on the one vial method—Ed.

8. The question of conglomeration of potencies is out of place in a talk about the determination of equivalents. Conglomeration refers to pollution, not to potency-activity but to its degeneration, impotency, and so to powerlessness. On oligo-dynamic power, none can speak confidently, in view of our limitations. But this much is certain that they are accurate attenuations and high potencies, and they work well.—Ed.

The point is that any calculation based on mere hypothesis,⁹ however mathematically precise is bound to be misleading. The first part being so the latter part i.e., the conversion table based on the first part cannot be relied upon.¹⁰ Even in the second part much has been taken for granted. In the matter of succussion on the centesimal scale as well as on the 50 Millesimal, while there is no question of succussion in the decimal scale (?) after the 200th, in the 50 Millesimal scale the hundred succussions are admittedly counted as if that number of succussions alter potency by cent per cent.¹¹ Has not Dr. Boyd of Glasgow recently proved that every single succussion upto forty alters¹² the potency: then it remains constant *

9. & 10. The argument itself is hypothetical. Dr. Bose hypothetically assumes the calculations to be hypothetical, whilst Hahnemann had a clear conception of the mathematical, basis of his potencies. Dr. Bose may please refer to Organon 6th Ed. page-291, Ft. Note—150 & page-294, Ft. Note—156; as also Dudgeon 5th Ed. page—190, Ft. Note—1 & page-301; as well as Materia Medica Pura part-1: page-61. And inversely, the first being considered sound, logical, the second is definitely so and dependable.—Ed.

11. Nowhere is it so counted in Dr. Bhattacharjee's Article. What is contended there is that 100 strokes in place of 10 "considerably enlarge the strides taken in the act of dynamization" (page—102). We are afraid the confusion arose from Dr. Bose's not reading the said article carefully.—Ed.

12. So far as we are aware, Dr. Boyd confined his researches within the microdilutions ranging upto and between 10^{61} & 10^{71} which expressed homœopathically are 60 Decimal and 70 decimal potencies approximately. So, it is extremely unsafe, since unscientific, to apply the results obtained in the decimal scale to the potencies in the Centesimal or Millesimal, which have not been investigated so far. Further, the Emanometer has not been so developed as to be sufficiently sensitive to higher and highest potencies. In absence of the requisite positive scientific data, it is safer to fall back upon the astonishingly sound conclusions and precise methods of Hahnemann, than to waver in speculative, conjectural indecisions; and that especially when Hahnemann decides to lay a special stress upon the *number of strokes*, throughout the editions of the Organon from the 3rd to the 6th.—Ed.

* Homœopathy—An explanation of its Principles by Sir John Weir, K.C.V.O., M.B., page 17.

Can there not be some limit some where below the hundredth succussion also in 50 Millesimal Potency ? ¹³

It may be that Dr. Boyd's apparatus was not sensitive enough to detect the difference after the fortieth succussion, thus not up to the mark but might it not be that Hahnemann made some allowance for mistakes in counting or make up losses due to weakness of the person succussing ? ¹⁴

Then there is the omission of taking into account the first three centesimal triturations and the subsequent 50 Millesimal liquid prior to the first degree of 50 Millesimal potency. ¹⁵ This might have been due to inadvertancy but it is there.

Further, there is no evidence to show that the exact amount of power or energy liberated during potentisation is taken into account. Is mere adding the number of each succussion in succession enough ? What about the velocity or momentums ? Does not Homœopathic method of potentisation generate heat and release energy ? Cannot the same be measured ? ¹⁶

13. Who knows if there is any limit below the 100 strokes or not ? That has not been ascertained. But, Hahnemann, the indefatigable experimenter and ceaseless researcher, tells us, after years of experimentation, to adopt the 100 succussion method, which develops medicinal powers amazingly to the desired extent.—Ed.

14. Who knows if Hahnemann made such allowances ? All such talk is mere conjecture. From the strict, scrupulous, laborious and indefatigable nature of Hahnemann's researches, it may be assumed, on the other hand, that he could not be the person to allow such laxity and a loophole in his method.—Ed.

15. No ! We are afraid Dr. Bose has not gone through the calculations carefully. The drug-strengths of the first three degrees of trituration, as well as of the Mother Solution, have been duly calculated.—Ed.

16. Yes ! The homœopathic potencies are electro-physical energies, as identified by Dr. Boyd. Conceptually, they are measurable entities, so far as their volume (Voltage), penetrability (Watt) and resistance (Ohm) are concerned. Besides, they are magnetic energies, of which the properties of attraction, repulsion and neutralisation are determinable phenomena. Succussion is the only method adopted in homœopathy for the release of potency-energy. Each stage of succussion releases each degree of energy. But the variance and variability of each degree of energy, consequent upon each stage of succussion, though measurable, have not yet been accurately measured. So, the calculations of the drug strengths and of the succussions become our only basis for the determination of the potency-energy. Dr. Bose may please refer to Dr. Bhattacharjee's articles : Through the magic door. Evaluation of our Doctrine. published in the Hahnemann Cleanings.—Ed.

What Hahnemann in § 269 of his sixth edition of *Organon* says, in substance, is—that by means of the mechanical action by way of rubbing and shaking and through addition of indifferent substance the inner medicinal powers—the hidden dynamic powers—of crude substances hitherto unperceived and remaining as if slumbering, develop to an hitherto unheard of degree.....

Modern science says that mass can be broken into small fractions and that under certain circumstances matter might combine together with disappearance of a small fraction of their masses and that in such a case the vanishing of mass is accompanied with a production of an equivalent amount of energy.

McMillan, Thornton and Lawrence of the University of California reported before the National Academy of Sciences in 1935 that they had developed a process whereby certain of the lower elements had been made radioactive. This end was accomplished by “breaking through the enormously high energy barrier that surrounds the nucleus of the atom—and for the purpose they had employed a special apparatus perfected for the purpose, with a very low amperage and very high voltage. Copper and Sodium Chloride were made artificially radioactive and the Sodium Chloride remains radioactive in Solution.....” (Robert’s Principles and Art of Cure, pp. 227-8).

It may be contended that breaking up of matter by friction as per Hahnemann’s directions and the breaking up of same by bombardment with special apparatus in which electricity plays a prominent part cannot be one and the same thing, but Millikan says of the more common and lighter elements (such as sodium, for instance): Man can probably learn to disintegrate them but he will always do it ‘by the sweat of his brow’. That medicines potentized in accordance with homœopathic methods become more and more powerful with every higher dynamisation and in every such dynamisation there exists a radiant energy, has been proved beyond doubt by Dr. Boyd of Glasgow before a committee of seven scientists and physicians—known as Horder Committee, with the graphs taken by his apparatus ‘Emanometer’ (vide “Homœopathy”, January, 1951).

(To be continued)

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It will therefore be evident that what the modern scientist says cloathed in modern scientific terminology is the same that Hahnemann said more than a hundred years ago in simple language, as modern scientific terminology was not coined in those days.

Thus by potentisation on the one hand we have the question of attenuation of matter and on the other there is the question of release of energy from matter of which there can no longer be any doubt, the one inter-related with the other. If in drawing up the Comparative Table Dr. Bhattacharjee had followed the principle of Relativity of energy and matter in his own way or in accordance with the famous equation of Einstein ; Energy equals Mass multiplied by the square of the speed of light—the exact power of high potencies made by machines not being known (either not ascertained or if ascertained the tendency is to keep them secret) the inevitable result would be that the table will have no practical value.¹⁷

This is the reason why that eminent Homœopath and scientist Dr. Roberts after a good deal of highly interesting discussion (vide *ibid* pp. 263—266) had to say—so far no technique

17. The conversion table has been framed strictly on the mathematical calculations. It is an accurate conversion table, so far as the drug-strength or quantity of the drugs is concerned. But, it has been shown, at the same time, that the potencies accurately convertible on the quantitative plane could not be so convertible on the qualitative, i.e., when the number of strokes are concerned. The table given is, therefore, a conversion table as well as a comparison table. Further, it has been assumed that handmade centesimal potencies are comparable with handmade millesimal, and machinemade centesimal with machinemade millesimal. The conversion table is, therefore, as practical as it is intended to be.—Ed.

has been devised to determine what relation of trituration and succussion to energy release really means to the homœopathic preparation of remedies; whether we actually change the character of the elements with which we deal and if so, whether or not this is in a fixed ratio, is a problem for the Homœopathic physicist. This is a field not yet developed but that one offers a challenge to homœopathy. This he said more than a decade ago and science has since progressed a good deal. As already stated Dr. Boyd has demonstrated that not only remedies develop power in proportion to dynamisation, (succussion to a limited extent) but also that the remedy retains its inherent qualities, i.e., it does not undergo any change in its character.

Calculations based on the theory of Wave-like character of Matter is another approach to the solution of our problem, but here, too, we are confronted with the same old stumbling block,—the lack of knowledge of the exact potency of the machine made high potencies¹⁸. One has to find out these first in order to arrive at mathematical precision and even then the correctness will have to be checked by experiments before putting to use, else they would at best be of academic interest only.

All these are beyond the scope of an ordinary Homœopathic physician. All that he requires is a really practical conversion table and this has got to be hammered out from materials themselves—

One way of doing this is with the aid of the apparatus "Emanometer"—provided¹⁹ it is sensitive to higher potencies.

18. But, in view of the observation of Dr. Kent, that the skinner potencies are the most accurate in the world, and our stand-point that the handmade cent. potencies are comparable with the handmade millesimal, the machine-made cent. with the machine-made mille., there can remain no case for confusion.—Ed.

19. Ah! the great 'provided'! We wish the 'provided' came to be true. But, so far as our knowledge goes, the Emanometer can only graphically compare the electrophysical state of a particular drug with that of a diseased state, and that also in a limited way. Dr. Boyd's Emanometer could only detect electrophysical activity of potencies upto the range of micro-dilutions, 10^{61} & 10^{71} , but potencies higher than that range have not been investigated. Further, the potency-wise estimate of values i.e., of energy, could not be achieved either. Else, the enigma of potency would be solved. That is not an easy matter.—Ed.

Select at least three among the polychrests derived from vegetable, animal and mineral kingdoms potentized as per 3 classes of pharmacopœia—take of each a certain quantity in separate vials—

- (a) all the mostly used potencies—Lower ones made as per Homœo. pharmacopœia as well as highers made by machines; and
- (b) all the potencies upto 200 prepared in accordance with the directions given in the sixth edition of Organon and get their graphs recorded by the apparatus.

To compare the graphs and draw up a Comparative cum Conversion Table thereafter would be an easy task.

This procedure is, no doubt, a bit costly but practical and free from conjectures. If some one or other of the Calcutta business magnets in the line comes forward our goal is easily achieved.

As to whether Mahammad will go to the mountain or the mountain to Mahammed i.e., whether the medicines will go abroad for the scrutiny or an Emanometer will be brought down to this country for the purpose—this is a matter for enterprising businessmen to decide. By purchasing this apparatus the purchaser will not only be rendering yeoman's service to Homœopathy, and Homœopaths of India but will at the same time be the gainer in the long run, because the same apparatus can be used for finding out the right remedy in correct potency for the cure of patients. It is said that with the aid of this instrument, the indicated remedy and the potency required can be found out, without the necessity of going through the time absorbing paraphernalia of Case-taking, Repertorising and consulting the materia medica,²⁰ just like taking out an X-ray plate.

20. Oh ! The day, when all our labours would be saved. We hope for the day. But, that has not been possible up-till now. Some experimenters on the line (even Dr. Boyd) report that the Emanometer suggests only a group of remedies, after which the consultation of the Materia Medica & of the Repertory becomes inevitable for strict individualisation. Intensive and extensive expert work of unbelievable magnitude is needed for it. Probably, many more Boyds' and Einsteins' would be required to scientifically solve the two-fold problems of the selection of the remedy as well as of the potency.—Ed.

As already stated all this is subject to the proviso that the apparatus is sensitive to high potencies. If it is not, then the only method that can save the classical homœopaths from the imminent impasse is by practical experiments, starting from the lowest rung of the ladder. The sooner we set to work the better for all concerned.

For acute cases of the straight kind i.e., that are uncomplicated and for all kinds of chronics where there is no breakdown of tissues to a considerable extent, one may start with 30th of the 50 Millesimal potency and for complicated acutes and chronics with advanced pathology with 3rd, 6th or 12th of the 50 Millesimal potency with safety and gradually ascend as found necessary. The progress is bound to be slow but it is the slow but steady that wins the race always.

Apart from the several reasons enumerated above why we should have the *medicamentum aglobule* there is another. Accurate prescribers have to face, on occasions, violent aggravations the cause of which could be definitely traced to the heaviness of doses inspite of having rendered very small and once the mischief is done the mistake can hardly be rectified (§ 282 Organon, 6th Edn.) and either the physician shows the white feather and changes the remedy or the patient does the same and seeks a change of physician. All the same, the patient is not cured.

High potency alone does not ensure minimum dose as Dr. Kent's famous Phosphorus case (Lectures on Lesser Writings p. 481) brings home the fact, although in an indirect way, that high potency alone does not constitute small dose as some eminent homœopaths hold. Hahnemann is very clear on the point in §275—77 of Organon. High potencies have high power and their dose too has got to be controlled. *The medicamentum aglobule* is therefore an essential commodity and must be in the hands of every accurate prescriber, at least for starting with the treatment of very sensitive patients and thereafter for cure in shorter period of time by repetitions according to the newer directions. Once their qualities are tested, they would stay on, inspite of the availability of machine made potencies.

So, Emanometer or no Emanometer, the 50 Mill. potencies are wanted and that without delay. We hope that the Hahnemann Publishing Company (Private) Limited²¹ always on the alert and ever ready to meet the requirements of Homœopaths, will come to our aid by producing and supplying the 50 Millesimal potencies of all polychrests at least upto 30th to start with, failing which all will be darkness with classical homœopaths, unless indeed they find their way to do it themselves.

THE SECOND PRESCRIPTION IN CHRONIC DISEASES

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"The second prescription presupposes that the first one has been a correct one, that it has acted, and that it *has been let alone*", writes Kent in his "Lectures on Homœopathic Philosophy" P. 279. He adds "If the first prescription has not acted curatively or has not been permitted to act the full time, it is impossible to get a second observation. The second observation is made when the case comes to a standstill ; for, after the first prescription has been made, changes occur, there is coming and going of symptoms, and *while these changes are occurring no rational observation can be made of the case* ; if a second prescription be made during this time, it will be likely to spoil the whole case".

It has been very lucidly expressed but very few physicians follow this advice ; for, in their anxiety to provide quick relief to the patient, a second prescription is made too soon. How

21. They have already come forward to prepare Millesimal potencies on a commercial scale. May God bless them ! Ed.